

14 March 2025

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 29971

Personal details removed for  
proactive release

Personal details removed for  
proactive release

Thank you for your email of 9 February 2025 to Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). On 18 February 2025, the following part of your request was transferred from DPMC to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) for response:

*I would like confirmation regarding how much the Crown has paid (in the past 5, by year) towards overseas travel (single and return tickets) for Cook Islands (CI)'s government staff to China (including to Hong Kong or via third-party country), including travel by -*

- *the CI Prime Minister's office;*
- *CI prime minister's family;*
- *other CI government officials.*

*And accommodation and other costs associated with travel.*

*Please also confirm NZ government budgets for CI's ministry of foreign affairs for the same period and future.*

We can confirm that the Ministry has not paid for any overseas travel for Cook Islands Government Ministers or officials to China in the period 8 February 2020 to 18 February 2025.

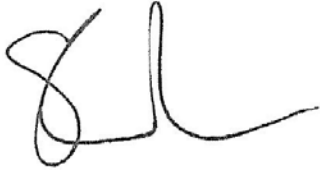
In the period 18 February 2020 to 18 February 2025, the Ministry, on behalf of the New Zealand Government, has not provided a budget to the Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information you requested does not exist.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

[www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade